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1911
P R O P O S A L

For LESSENING the
Excessive Price
O F
B R E A D C O R N
I N
I R E L A N D.

Agricola incurvo terram dimovit aratro ;

—— *Hinc patriam parvosq; Nepotes.*

Sustinet ——

VIRG. GEORG. lib. II.

D U B L I N :

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For EDWARD EESHAW, at the Bible on Cork-Hill

M,DCC,XLI.

PROPOSAL

For the purchase of the

Excellent Price



BRITISH MUSEUM

YRELAND

For the purchase of the
Excellent Price
YRELAND

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Excellent Price
YRELAND

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PROPOSAL, &c.

DUBLIN, June the First, 1741.

THE present Dearth and Scarcity of Bread Corn is a general Complaint. All Ranks and Conditions of Men have felt it, but the poor and lower fort suffer exceedingly.

We live in an Island naturally fruitful; and are blessed with a Sun and Soil little inferior to our Neighbours: Yet what does this avail? If we shamefully neglect our *Tillage* in so many Parts of the Kingdom, and have neither *Store-houses*, nor *Granaries* to lay up a due Quantity of Corn to sustain the Lives of the Inhabitants. From hence Multitudes of the inferior People every second or third Year are reduced to great Necessities, and without the Help of foreign Markets, would often be exposed to Famine. This must, and does give real Concern to every Man who wishes well to the Happiness of his Country, or has any Sense of the Wants of his Fellow-creatures.

The miserable State to which the Inhabitants of the North, and indeed of all the Kingdom, were reduced to in the latter End of 1728, and till the Harvest of 1729, had it not been for the seasonable and uncommon Charities of such, who had Bowels of Compassion equal to their Wants, is still fresh in the Memories of them who tasted of their Bounty.

The extreme rigorous Season of 1739, and the long Duration of the Frost were fatal to Numbers, for want of fit Stores of Corn, which other Nations take Care to have ready against such Emergencies. And though the signal and seasonable Charities, which were then distributed to relieve the Wants of many thousand Families, preserved them at that time from starving, yet the Necessities of many others were very great. This was succeeded by a very backward Spring, *and scarce any Summer*, of which the whole kingdom at present feels *the bad Effects*, by a dearth of all sorts of Provisions, attended by a severe and almost general Sickness, that by all accounts has nearly depopulated some parts of the Country. The uncommon Necessities, to which many thousand poor Families of this City have been reduced for some months past, are too apparent; who in all probability would have perished for want of Food, had they not been timely relieved by the signal, and most extensive Charity of a great and
good

good Prelate among us; which in some degree hath been happily followed by several persons in this Capital, as well as in other Cities and Places of the Kingdom.

Such then being the extreme Distress of Multitudes in this Nation, all prudent remedies should be thought of in time, to prevent such evils from breaking in upon us again,

Principiis Obsta.————

There are two things which most evidently call for our attention on this occasion.

1st. To encourage more and better Tillage.

2^{dly}, To erect convenient Granaries for Corn.

It has ever been the Wisdom of all civilized Nations to employ a fit number of their People in the due culture and improvement of Land, to furnish Bread to support the inhabitants; as knowing it to be that whereon the life and well-being of the Community depends. Even the savage *Indians* (who lay up Maiz for the Winter, as the *Europeans* do Wheat and other Grain) shew more foresight than the people of this Kingdom; and all the *Europeans* (except ourselves) generally enjoy a constant plenty, wherever Husbandry and Tillage are properly encouraged: Why Agriculture hath not been more extensively carried on among us, I cannot give any satisfactory reason; but it is evident from our

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wants,

wants, that it should be much more encouraged than it has been.

It is certain, that the Tillage of the Kingdom does not bear a sufficient proportion to the wants of the inhabitants: And it is as certain, that most parts of it are capable of producing some one, or every kind of grain in such plenty, as to make it unnecessary to send to foreign markets. Let a Stranger cast his eyes on the rich and fertile grounds in the Counties of *Dublin, East and West-Meath, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Limerick, Roscommon and Gallway, &c.* Then let him ask, Whence proceeds this scanty provision of Corn among us? Whence the decay, and daily complaints of the want of Bread in our Streets? Why do we not rather till and sow those parts of the land, which will yield us the best and greatest encrease? Why do we neglect and discourage Tillage *where it can best be carried on, and content ourselves to plow and sow chiefly in the bleak Counties of the North?* Where our Harvests are always late, and consequently exposed to constant dangers, and the Lands generally not near so productive of any grain, but Oats, as they are in most of the other parts of the Kingdom.

We complain of our poverty, and perhaps we have reason; and one cause of it (among many others) is the want of sufficient Tillage; if this were effectually promoted, abundantly more hands would be employed than

than are at present ; this would create industry, and industry would bring in more wealth to the Nation, than we have by our present method of farming by large stocks of cattel. Besides, we should certainly save the money which is yearly sent abroad for Corn to foreign Markets, and be able with profit to export it to other countries to supply the wants of our Neighbours. If it be with the view of gain, that we thus misemploy our richest grounds to feed and fatten our beasts, to the great distress of our people, such hopes are without foundation : For let the produce of land for both uses be fairly considered, let a given number of Acres of good arable land be set apart for Tillage, let another proportion of ground of the same quantity and quality be employed in grazing Cattel, let the expences and profits of both be minutely considered, and then see how and where the balance will turn. The profit is so great on the side of Tillage, some say four, but demonstrably about three to one, in the common method of ploughing, according to exact computations not long since made, * that it is amazing we will not see where the advan-

* See the first part of an Essay on the Trade and Improvement of Ireland by *Arthur Dobbs, Esq;* Page 26, 27. *Dublin* 1731.

See some thoughts on Tillage, *Dublin* 1738.

rage lies. Wheat, which at a Medium hath been usually sold in *Dublin* market at 17 or 18 s. *per* barrel, was lately raised to 1 l. 18 s. or 2 l. and Oatmeal in the *North*, the usual food of the common people there, at the medium of 7 or 8 s. *per* hundred, did at last rise to 18 or 20 s. This hath rendered the case of multitudes of Manufacturers and Labourers, who daily subsist by the work of their hands, truly pitiable, and reduced many to the extremity of want.

In *England*, the evils which arose from converting Arable land into pasturage, were once so great, that in the Reign of King *Henry* 7th, my Lord *Bacon* tells us in the life of that King, an express Statute was made of singular Policy to prevent the mischiefs which were like to ensue; and to use his own words: ‘ For remedying this inconvenience, the King and the Parliaments wisdom was admirable; the Ordinance was, that all Houses of Husbandry that were used with twenty Acres of ground, and upwards, should be maintained and kept up for ever, together with a competent Proportion of land to be used and occupied with them, and in no wise to be severed from them. By this means, (as that noble Historian observes) the houses being kept up, did of necessity inforce a dweller, not to be a Beggar or a Cottager, but a man of some substance

‘ substance that might keep Hinds and servants, and set the Plough on going. *’

But the mischiefs still increasing by the decay of Tillage, and turning Corn farms into Pasture, his successor King *Henry 8th.* thought it highly expedient to cause the ancient Statutes made in this behalf to be looked into, and carried into execution. This was in the Year 1521. I will recite the Lord *Herbert's* words † upon the occasion. ‘ Such was the covetousness of the richer sort at this time in *England*, that they converted many large corn fields into Pasture; hereof ensued a general decay not only of houses, but of persons, which should do their King and Country service; besides, Sheep, Cattle, and Cloaths being thus within the hands of a few, the price was much enhanced. To remedy this mischief, the King caused the ancient Statutes, provided in that behalf, to be looked into, and accordingly directed his Commission to the Justices of the Peace, to restore all the Tillage-ground that had been enclosed any time within fifty years last past, and to

* Further reasons for this Law— See Lord Bacon's History of the Reign of King *Henry 7th.* Pag. 72, 73. &c.

† Life of *Henry 8th* by Lord *Herbert*, pag. 98. London, 1672.

' cause the houses anciently upon them to be
 ' re-edified." *Polydore Vergil* * gives an ac-
 ' count of this matter more fully, and with
 ' greater sharpness, *Post hæc. &c.* ' After this
 ' (says he) the King turned his eyes on the
 ' furtherance of the service of the weal pub-
 ' lick: For the *Noble Herdsmen* had for a-
 ' bove fifty years past invented methods how
 ' to increase the yearly revenues of their
 ' lands, by which the painful Plowmen suf-
 ' fered inconceivable damage. For they,
 ' after the manner of the *Numidians*, de-
 ' lighting rather in the Pasture of Cattle,
 ' than in Tillage, began to thin the Country
 ' of Husbandmen, to level their habitations,
 ' to turn the Kingdom into vast deserts, and
 ' to fill it with numerous herds and flocks of
 ' beasts. Thus they inclosed all Pastures,
 ' and took them into their own possession,
 ' intending to engross a monopoly of Wool,
 ' Sheep, and Oxen by their private power.
 ' From hence the common weal suffered a
 ' threefold mischief. *First*, the number of
 ' Yeomen were diminished, whose bodies
 ' are most useful to the King in his wars.
 ' *Secondly*, Many villages and towns, being
 ' emptied of their inhabitants, are fallen to
 ' ruin. And *Thirdly*, Wool, with the cloth-

* See *Polydore Vergil*. Lib. 27. pag. 664. Edit.
Basil. 1570.

ing made of it, and the flesh of such Animals as serve for the support of man, increased highly in their prices. These *Evils*, being not early provided against, gathered strength from time, and in the end became difficult to be remedied. The King published a Proclamation over all *England*, and commissioned the Justices of Peace in their several districts to make an enquiry and return, what *wicked Practices* of this kind had been introduced within fifty years last past. The Justices did their duty diligently, and made a full return of every thing committed to them. The King issued a Proclamation, commanding the farm houses, which had been thrown down, to be rebuilt, the Husbandmen to be brought back, the Inclosures to be levelled, and inflicted a severe penalty on the disobedient. Yet a little after, bribery in a great measure made void these *Holy Decrees*, and many *Nobles* by the mediation of Money, prevailed on *Woolsey* to redeem them from their vexations. Yet the Husbandmen obtained some little profit from these proceedings; and as power was given to break down inclosures, they laid hold of the opportunity before all-powerful Money had time to step in.' Thus far *Polydore Virgil*.

And though some little check was at this time given to these destructive practices, yet the

the evil increased again: For 12 years after, the wisdom of Parliament thought it necessary to provide a new remedy by making a law in the following words. ' Because the greediness of some who have gotten into their hands much *Cattel* and many *Farms*, which they have turned from *Tillage* to *Pasture* (especially for sheep) old Rents are raised, Prices of Things enhanced, and so much Poverty and Theft ensued. It was enacted, that no man should have in his own or farmed lands above 2000 sheep. And secondly, that no man should take and hold above two Farms at once, and those to be in the same Parish, upon certain Penalties there set down.'

Notwithstanding all this care in the Reign of the Father, yet in the time of his most excellent Son, King *Edward* the 6th, great was the poverty and discontent throughout the Country, by reason of the decay of *Tillage*, and the inclosing land for *Pasturage*. This practice occasioned many insurrections; against which evil, a Commission was immediately granted to enquire into those abuses, and on the first of *June* 1548, there issued a notable Proclamation * against enclosures,

* See *Strype's Eccles. Memorials* of King *Edward* 6th pag. 92, 93, 94.

letting of houses fall to decay, and unlawful
 converting of Arable ground into Pastures,
 setting forth. ' That the King, the Lord
 ' Protector's Grace, and the rest of the
 ' Privy Council, were put in remembrance
 ' as well by divers supplications and pitiful
 ' complaints of the King's poor subjects, as
 ' well as by other wise and discreet men, ha-
 ' ving care of the good order of the Realm.
 ' That of late, by the enclosing of lands
 ' and *Arable grounds* in divers and sundry
 ' places of the Realm, many had been dri-
 ' ven to extreme poverty, and *compelled to*
 ' *leave the places where they were born*, and to
 ' to seek them beings in other *Countries*; in-
 ' somuch as in time past, ten, twenty, yea,
 ' in some places an 100 or 200 christian
 ' people have been inhabiting, and kept hous-
 ' holds for the bringing up and nourishing of
 ' youth, and to the replenishing and filling
 ' of his Majesty's Realm with faithful sub-
 ' jects, who might serve both Almighty
 ' God, and the King's Majesty to the defence
 ' of the Realm. Now there is nothing but
 ' *Sheep or Bullocks*; all that land which was
 ' heretofore *tilled* and occupied with so many
 ' *men*, and did bring forth not only divers
 ' families in work and labour, but also fit
 ' furniture for the markets, is now gotten by
 ' *unsatiable greediness* of men into one or two
 ' men's hands, and scarcely dwelt upon
 ' *with one poor Shepherd*, so that the Realm
 B thereby

thereby was brought to a marvellous desolation, &c. And although fundry complaints have been heretofore made of the same thing, and divers and fundry laws made for remedy thereof in the time of his Majesty's Father and Grandfather; yet the covetousness of men, not ceasing daily to encroach thereupon, and more and more laying waste the Realm; therefore, his Majesty by the advice of his Privy Council, having deeply weighed these things, and out of Princely Zeal, that such Godly Laws may be put in *Ure* and *Execution*; hath appointed a view and enquiry to be made of all such as, contrary to the said Acts and Ordinances, have made *enclosures* and *Pastures* of that which was Arable Land, &c. And therefore willeth and commandeth all his loving subjects who know of any such defaults and offences contrary to the wealth and profit of his Realm, and the Laws and Acts of Parliament, done and committed by any person whatsoever he or they be, to give information of the offence to his Majesty's Commissioners, who are appointed to hear the same, that so a convenient and speedy reformation might be made therein, to the *Honour of God*, and the *King's Majesty*, and the *wealth* and *benefit* of the *whole Realm*. Thus far the Proclamation—*Cooper*, afterwards Bishop of *Lincoln*, in an Epistolary address to his Majesty,

Majesty, having taken notice of the shining and distinguished piety of this young Prince, his fervent Zeal to promote God's Honour, and Glory, and the interest of true Religion, by abolishing all remains of *Superstition* and *Idolatry*, adds his unwearied endeavours, to advance the service of the *Common Wealth*; and how that might best be carried on, he shews in the following words; ' *Truly to Ad-*
 ' *minister Justice*, to restrain *Extortion* and
 ' *Oppression*, to set up *Tillage* and good *Hus-*
 ' *bandry*, whereby the people may increase
 ' and may be maintain'd. Your Godly
 ' heart would not (says he) have *wild beasts*
 ' *increase* and *men decay*, ground so inclosed
 ' up, that your people should lack Food, and
 ' sustenance, *one man* to be *made*, by shutting
 ' in of fields and pastures, and an *hundred*
 ' *thereby* to be *destroyed*.' Then concludes,
 ' Oh Prince! most worthy to Reign, not
 ' over two or three Realms, but over the
 ' whole World.' Nor can it be passed by, that among other Observations of the State of the City of *London* in the days of this good King, one reason of the great number of miserable Objects then in *London*, the sight of whom much affected his Majesty, was, the *destruction* of *Tillage* in the *Country*. * How far this Observation may

* See *Strype's Memorials Eccles.* under King *Edward VIth*, pag. 449.

be applicable to the multitudes of starving poor in this Capital, is obvious to every unprejudiced Reader, who considers the present low state of Tillage in many parts of this Kingdom.

Now since the same causes must naturally produce the same effects ; is it not wisdom to prevent such great inconveniencies for the future ? When it is absolutely in our own power to do it.

To obviate evils of this and the like kind, the Legislature of *Ireland* did in the Year 1729 take the miserable case of the people, occasioned by the scarcity of Bread-Corn, into their consideration, and accordingly passed an Act as well for regulating Measures in buying and selling of Corn, as for promoting Husbandry in this Kingdom. By this Act, every person in possession of 100 Acres of Land, is obliged to Plow and Sow with Grain five Acres of the same, under the Penalty of forty Shillings : But whether the quantity of Land to be plowed and sowed was not sufficient, or the Penalty too small upon the transgressors of the Law, it is plain this Statute, how well soever intended, hath had no effect.

The want of a substantial Yeomanry is what the gentlemen of this Kingdom often, and justly complain of ; it is in their power, where Family Settlements will allow, to make Freeholders, and of course a Yeomanry if they

they please ; and by doing this they would soon see their estates much better improved ; all kinds of Husbandry and Tillage flourish, and no great Arrears or Deficiencies in their Rentals. It has been justly observed, that one reason why Bread-Corn has of late been so excessively dear, does not proceed from the want of fit tracts of land for the produce of Wheat, the culture of which is generally by one fourth more advantageous to the Farmer than that of Barley ; but because the return made by the latter is much quicker, and can better answer the pressing demands of *May Rents*, which must be paid before Winter, and no likely way of doing it, but by the sale of the Barley, vast quantities of which are exported to *Portugal*, &c. Whether in the end, it would not be of more advantage to Gentlemen to give greater encouragement to the culture of Wheat, is left to their consideration. The Publick, without doubt, would soon receive the benefit of a more extensive Tillage, People would be fed the better and be more able to work, and less Money would out of the Kingdom to purchase foreign Corn *, as I observed before ; which is either

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not

* It appears that in two Years time, between 1725 and 1730, we were under the Necessity of sending out

not always to be had, or not without great Expenſe, Hazard and Delay, eſpecially in time of War.

One great Diſcouragement, among many others, to *Tillage* now in *Ireland*, is, the unſteadineſs of the Markets: I have known more than once Bread Corn ſold from 30 to 40 s. a barrel; then all hands were ſet to work to put the Plough in the ground, the produce of which labour reduced, perhaps, the Price to 8 or 10 s. a barrel, and then the people were as buſy in beating up their Plowſhares into other uſes. This was followed ſoon after by a Scarcity, and the ſame revolutions of Labour and Idleneſs enſued. I know no way to obviate this evil but a Law (if ſuch be thought adviſeable by the Legiſlature) to give a *Premium* on the exportation of Corn under certain Regulations. A Premium in this Kingdom on the exportation of Corn would be a great Advantage to the Woollen Manufacture of *England*, by leſſening that infamous practice of running Wooll to our natural Enemies: For if the

out of the Kingdom to the value of between 1 and 200000 l. to bring in Corn.

See Liſt of the Abſentees of *Ireland*, with Obſervations on the Trade and Condition of that Kingdom.
Dublin Printed 1729.

rich

rich tracts of this Kingdom were by a publick Encouragement employed under the Plough; it would in a great measure take away the root of the evil, and diminish those *mighty flocks* of sheep, which depopulate the Country, and are a real detriment to the Nation. A Premium-Bill was once prepared * by the Privy-Council here, and returned back with the approbation of the Queen and Privy Council of *England*; but the unfortunate divisions among us at that time made us decline our happiness, and reject a law, which would have been millions in the way of the publick. A Law granting a Premium on the exportation of Corn, would surely encourage a more extensive Tillage, and prevent those Calamities we at present feel; *England* would receive the Benefit, and the *French* Markets be no longer glutted with a Commodity, which of all things is most destructive to the Trade and Interest of *England*.

But it does not become a private person to do more than give a bare hint; the united Wisdom of the two Nations may possibly find means to carry these crude notions into

* In the last Government of the Duke of Ormond in 1710, such a Bill came over approved of by the Queen and Council of *England*, but was thrown out by the House of Commons in *Ireland*.

execution; however that may be, let us well consider, that notwithstanding all our care and utmost precautions in the management of our Tillage, Difficulties may arise and unforeseen Accidents intervene. We may perhaps sometimes be obliged to struggle with the very Seasons, which may not always favour our Views. To provide against accidents of this kind, and to lay up sufficient stores in good Years, to answer the Inconveniences of bad ones, some method should be fallen upon for the erecting of *Granaries*; for if such were encouraged, they would in bad Seasons keep down the Markets, and there by lessen the price of Labour and Manufactures: Many Communities have done this.

Egypt, Sardinia and Sicily, were the *Granaries* of the *Roman Empire*; for the *Romans* being a military People, and who (till towards the decline of their Empire) too much neglected Tillage, suffered grievously by Famine, as often as the return of their Corn-Ships from these Countries failed them. This at last forced them to provide *Granaries* of their own, from whence they had always quantities of Corn ready for a supply; and in the Triumphs of their Generals, Largeesses of Corn to the *Roman* Citizens, were not below the Dignity of those Solemnities, and were thought the most engaging method of acquiring Popularity, at a time when Victories might have seemed sufficient to command

Applause,

Applause. Most of the *European* States at this day continue the wise methods of public and private Granaries ; those of *Poland*, and the City of *Dantzick*, of the United Provinces of *Holland*, *Legborn* and *Geneva*, are remarkable and exceedingly well conducted. A Gentleman, who resided a considerable time in *Geneva*, and has lately returned to these Kingdoms, gives the following account of the *Geneva* Granaries, in a Letter to a Correspondent here.

London, 24th. Nov. 1740.

‘ THE Granaries of *Geneva* have been
 ‘ settled above 100 Years, and con-
 ‘ tain Corn sufficient for one Year to all the
 ‘ Inhabitants of that small State, amounting
 ‘ at least to 26000, at most to 30000 ; where-
 ‘ of 4000 only live upon the Country Ter-
 ‘ ritory belonging to the State. The Town
 ‘ being situated in 45° of Latitude amongst
 ‘ Mountains, the Heat and Cold is very in-
 ‘ tense, and succeed one another by very
 ‘ quick and sudden changes ; yet in gene-
 ‘ ral, Summer always follows Winter with-
 ‘ out any Spring.

‘ The Corn of that Climate can only be
 ‘ preserved five or six Years ; yet the Wheat,
 ‘ which they purchased in *Barbary* in the
 ‘ Year 1696, was preserved above thirty
 ‘ Years, and became covered with a Crust
 ‘ as hard as Stone, but when Ground still
 ‘ yielded

' yielded a prodigious quantity of Meal.
 ' Their Proveditors are not at any time suf-
 ' fered to buy up Corn within 10 Leagues or
 ' 30 Miles of the City ; that is, they must
 ' seek their Store 24 Miles wide of the State,
 ' which one place with another does not ex-
 ' ceed a Circuit of 6 Miles. By the same
 ' rule, to prevent the rising of the Markets,
 ' County Granaries ought to be supplied from
 ' their more abundant Neighbours, or from
 ' the skirts of the Country, if the Crop be e-
 ' qual every where.

' Their Magazines are great square Build-
 ' ings turned to the North. Some of these
 ' Fabricks are 8 Stories high of 8 Foot
 ' each ; the Stair cases are very wide, and
 ' slope without Steps, or the Steps are very
 ' low, for the conveniency of Porters.

' The Floors in *Italy* are Stuccod, but in
 ' *Britain* nothing better and lighter than sea-
 ' soned Oak. But the Labour of filling
 ' would be much easier by Pullies ; and of
 ' emptying by pouring down ; and therefore
 ' the Ground Floor of a publick Granary
 ' should be left for a Market, or Rendez-
 ' vous of People ; and vaulted over head
 ' with a convenient Number of Apertures
 ' for hoisting up the Grain, first to the up-
 ' per Story, whence, according to its Years
 ' of Conservation, it should be poured gradual-
 ' ly down to the Stories below ; and from the
 ' first Floor measured and poured down to
 ' the People.

Abroad

‘ Abroad they only lay up Wheat ; but in
 ‘ *Ireland* perhaps it may be proper to pre-
 ‘ serve also Barley, Oats and Oatmeal, &c.
 ‘ the divisions of the building ought to be
 ‘ laid out accordingly.

‘ Their Gates are covered with Iron, and
 ‘ fitted so as to join perfectly, to keep out
 ‘ rats and Mice ; and for the same reason,
 ‘ all the Windows are secured by strong, and
 ‘ close Iron Lattices.

‘ On all their Granaries they place Day
 ‘ and Night Sentinels from the Town Guard ;
 ‘ but that being impossible in Country Towns,
 ‘ yours ought to be encompassed with Walls
 ‘ forming a Court, and watched by a Family
 ‘ provided with Mastiffs, in the same man-
 ‘ ner that Treasures are guarded in *Popish*
 ‘ Churches; where the Dogs never see Light,
 ‘ and are very fierce.

‘ The great trouble they have with their
 ‘ grain lasts chiefly the first year only, when
 ‘ they keep turning it very often with wooden
 ‘ Shovels, till it has sweated, and then they
 ‘ leave it quiet.

‘ The great point is to give it vent before
 ‘ it spoils ; this they do by obliging their
 ‘ Bakers, Publick-Houses, and Workmen
 ‘ of the State to take Corn from the Grana-
 ‘ ries ; that is, Bakers are appointed by the
 ‘ State to furnish these people with the pub-
 ‘ lick Grain, Bread at a certain Price ; com-
 ‘ monly

' monly not quite three farthings a pound of
 ' 18 Ounces. This year they have gained
 ' by it, it being cheaper than what other Ba-
 ' kers could afford it at, or than people could
 ' bake it themselves at home. Commonly
 ' indeed it comes a little dearer, but that
 ' falls only upon strangers, and those employ-
 ' ed by the State.

' Last Summer they opened their Grana-
 ' ries, sold to Townsmen and Strangers, and
 ' kept down the Market at a moderate Rate,
 ' even when there was no hopes of a Har-
 ' vest on an Account of the last severe Win-
 ' ter.

' This is all I have been able to learn con-
 ' cerning the Granaries of *Geneva*.

I am, &c.

So well contrived were the Store-houses in
 some parts of *France* for the preservation of
 Grain, that when *Lewis* the XIVth. and his
 Retinue passed through the City of *Metz*, in
 the Year 1707, they eat Bread made of Corn
 laid up in that City in the time of *Henry* II.
 who began his Reign in 1547. * We have
 also an account of the the great Benefit People
 in Want have lately received from the Grana-
 ries of *Prussia*, as well as from those in the
 Electorate of *Hanover*, and in other parts of

* *Chambers'* Dictionary on the Words, *Corn*, and
Granaries.

the *German* Empire. To come nearest home, Dr. *Merrit*, in his present State of the Granaries at the *Bridge-house, Southwark, London*, gives us an accurate Description of them, published in the second Volume of Mr. *Lowthorp's* Abridgment of the Philosophical Transactions concerning Granaries. pag. 628, 629, 630. 4th Edition, *London*, 1731. Take the Account in the Doctor's words.

‘ All the 12 Companies of *London*, and
 ‘ some other Companies and private Persons,
 ‘ have their Granaries at the *Bridge-house* in
 ‘ *Southwark*, (where are a Justice of the Peace,
 ‘ a Steward, and two Masters.) These Grana-
 ‘ ries are built on two sides of an oblong
 ‘ Square, one whereof stands North and South,
 ‘ and is near 100 Yards long; whose Lattice-
 ‘ windows respect North-East. The other
 ‘ side may be about 50 Yards long, the
 ‘ Windows look to the North, and the oppo-
 ‘ site side have no Apertures. All the Win-
 ‘ are about a Yard high, without any Shut-
 ‘ ters, and run on in a continued Series with
 ‘ very small Partitions, sufficient only to
 ‘ nail the Lattices to each of them, in 3 or 4
 ‘ Stories high.

‘ The Ground or lowermost Story, twelve
 ‘ Foot from the Ground, is used only for a
 ‘ Ware-house, &c. To settle the first Story
 ‘ upon strong Pillars fortified with Spikes
 ‘ of Iron, that no Vermin might get up,
 ‘ would make that Story fitter for drying
 C Corn,

‘ Corn, and more perflatick. In some Places
 ‘ they put in all the inside of their Rooms,
 ‘ Iron Wire of so narrow Meshes, that neither
 ‘ Rats nor Mice can get through them 2 or 3
 ‘ Foot deep: Others erect on all sides Boards
 ‘ of Timber, and fasten others to the Top of
 ‘ the Perpendicular, one lying either parallel
 ‘ to the Horizon, or so, that they make an a-
 ‘ cute Angle with the former for the same
 ‘ Purpose: For besides the devouring of the
 ‘ Grain, the Excrements and Urine of that
 ‘ Vermin moistening the Wheat or Rye,
 ‘ make them apt to corrupt and breed Wee-
 ‘ vels. The two main Considerables in buil-
 ‘ ding these Granaries are to make them
 ‘ strong and expose them to the most dry-
 ‘ ing Winds. The ordering of their Corn is
 ‘ thus.—In *Kent*, to separate the Dust and o-
 ‘ ther Impurities in it, when it is threshed, they
 ‘ throw it in Shovels from one side to the other,
 ‘ which the longer it is in doing the better,
 ‘ by which means all such Impurities remain
 ‘ in the Middle betwixt the two Heaps of
 ‘ Corn, which they skreen, to part the Corn
 ‘ which is good, from the said Impurities.
 ‘ Then when they bring the Grain into the
 ‘ Granaries, they lay it about half a Foot
 ‘ thick, and turn it twice a Week, and once
 ‘ in that time skreen it, and this for two
 ‘ Months space; after that, they lay it a Foot
 ‘ thick for two Months or more, turning it
 ‘ once or twice a Week, and skreen it pro-
 ‘ portionably,

‘ portionably, according as the drying Season is, seldom or oftener.

‘ After 5 or 6 Months, they raise it to two Foot in height, and turn it once a Fortnight, and skreen it once a Month, as occasion is. After a Year they lay it two and a half or three Foot deep, and turn it once in three Weeks or a Month, and skreen it proportionably.

‘ When it hath lain two Years or more, they turn it once in two Months, and skreen it once a Quarter, and so on as they find it in brightness, hardness and dryness: The oftener these two Things are done the better it proves. They leave an empty Space about a Yard wide on all sides of the Room, and at six Foot distance through the whole Area, empty of Corn, into which empty Places they turn the Corn, as often as it is needful.

‘ In *Kent*, they make two square Holes in both the ends of the Floor, and one round in the Middle, by which they throw the Corn from the upper into the lower Rooms, *et contra*, to air and dry it the better.

‘ The Skreens are made with two Partitions, to separate the Dust from the Corn, which falls into a Bag, and when sufficiently full is cast away, the good Corn remaining behind.

‘ Corn has been kept in *London* Granaries 32 Years, and the longer ’tis kept the

‘ more flour it yields, in proportion to the
 ‘ quantity of Corn, and makes the purer and
 ‘ whiter Bread ; the superfluous humidity on-
 ‘ ly evaporates.

‘ Dr. *Pell* mentioned at a Meeting of the
 ‘ *Royal Society*, that they keep Corn at *Zurich*
 ‘ in *Helvetia* 80 Years. Observing Merchants
 ‘ and Travellers tell us, that the Granaries of
 ‘ *Dantzick* are generally 7 Stories high, and
 ‘ some 9 Stories, having each of them a Fun-
 ‘ nel to let the Corn down from one Floor to
 ‘ another, thereby chiefly saving the Labour
 ‘ and Charges of carrying it down, and then
 ‘ that they in that Town are built altogether
 ‘ surrounded with Water ; whereby the Ships
 ‘ have the Conveniency of lying close to them
 ‘ to take in their Lading. No Houses are
 ‘ suffered to be built near them, to be there-
 ‘ by secured from the Casualties of Fire.

‘ Those of *Muscovy* are made under Ground,
 ‘ by digging a deep Pit of almost the Figure
 ‘ of a Sugar-loaf, broad below, and narrow at
 ‘ the Top ; the Sides well plaistered round
 ‘ about, and the Top very closely covered
 ‘ with Stone.

‘ ‘ The People of that Country are so very
 ‘ careful to have the Corn well dried, before
 ‘ they put it into those subterraneous Grana-
 ‘ ries, that when the Weather of the Northern
 ‘ Climate serves not to dry it sufficiently, they
 ‘ heat their Barns by the means of great O-
 ‘ vens, and thereby well drying their Corn,
 ‘ supply

‘ supply the deficiency of their short Summer.’

We have earlier Testimonies of the service Tillage and publick Store houses of Corn would be to this kingdom. For Mr. *Edmund Spencer*, the celebrated Author of the *Fairy Queen*, Secretary to the Lord Grey, Lord Deputy of *Ireland* in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, who well understood the State of this Nation, does in his View of *Ireland*, writ Anno 1596, among other regulations expressly recommend an Increase of Tillage and publick Magazines for Corn in the following words, Page 110.

‘ I wou’d wish, that there were some Ordinances made amongst them (the *Irish*) that
 ‘ whoever keepeth 20 Kine; should keep a
 ‘ Plow going; for otherwise all men wou’d
 ‘ fall to Pasturage, and none to Husbandry,
 ‘ which is a great cause of the usual stealths
 ‘ in *Ireland*: For look into all Countries that
 ‘ live in such sort by keeping of Cattle, and
 ‘ you shall find that they are both barbarous
 ‘ and uncivil, and also greatly given to
 ‘ war. The *Tartarians*, the *Muscovites*,
 ‘ the *Norwegians*, the *Goths*, the *Armenians*,
 ‘ and many other do witness the same. And
 ‘ therefore, since now we propose to draw
 ‘ the *Irish* from desire of war and tumults, to
 ‘ the love of peace and civility, it is expedient to abridge their custom of hardening
 ‘ (I suppose he means of herding or pasturing)
 ing)

ing) and augment their Trade of Tillage
 and Husbandry.' He also mentions the
 great use of erecting Granaries, in the 97th
 pag. of his view, &c. in the following words.
 But hereafter when things shall grow into
 a better strength, and the Country be re-
 plenished with Corn, as in short space it
 will, if it be well followed; for the coun-
 try people themselves are great Plowers,
 and small spenders of Corn; then would I
 wish there be good store of Houses, and
 Magazines erected in all those great places
 of Garrison, and in all great Towns as well
 for the victualling of soldiers and ships, as
 for all occasions of sudden services, as also
 for preventing at all times *dearth* and *scar-*
city; and this want is much to be com-
 plained of in *England*, above all other coun-
 tries, who trusting too much to the usual
 Blessing of the Earth, do never forecast
 any such hard seasons, nor any such sudden
 occasions, as these troublous times may every
 day bring forth, which it will be but too
 late to gather provisions from abroad, and
 to bring it perhaps from far, for the fur-
 nishing of ships and soldiers, which perad-
 venture may need to be presently employ-
 ed, and whose want may (which God for-
 bid) hap to hazard a Kingdom.'

Here let us observe the discerning know-
 ledge of this ingenious writer, by a remar-
 kable event which happened in less than a Cen-
 tury

tury after he writ : Consider, if his advice had been taken to erect Magazines for Corn, in places of Garrisons, and great Towns of this Kingdom, whether the lives of some thousand Protestants had not been saved, even if one Magazine or Granary had been found stored with Corn in the city of *Derry* in the memorable Siege of that place *An. 1688*, on the defence or surrender of which Town, depended the safety, or destruction of all the Protestants then in *Ireland*. Those who undertook to defend the place had before been stripped and plundered of all their substance by the Papists, and were in daily fears of being murdered by the *French* and *Irish* Armies. This made them take refuge in the said Garrison, which was neither regularly fortified, nor strong by nature. The besieged were so far from being trained up in the art of war, that much the greatest part of them were only Citizens of the Town, private Gentlemen, Farmers and Tradesmen, who fled to this place of safety from the ravages and depredations in the open Country. And though but a body of raw undisciplined Men without Arms, Ammunition, Artillery, or Provisions equal to sustain such a Siege, yet they chearfully entred the Garrison, shut their gates against the enemy, and at once engaged in the defence of their lives and fortunes, liberties and Religion. They bravely withstood a well appointed Army of 20000

Besiegers,

Besiegers, *French* and *Irish*, of whom in their frequent sallies, and defence of the Town, they killed between 8 and 9000. Yet, what is astonishing, during the whole Siege, which lasted more than three months, a 100 men only died by the hand of the enemy. Thousands however perished by famine, for want of Bread; being at last obliged to eat horse flesh, greaves, tallow, starch, and such unwholesome food, which soon ended in diseases and death; so that out of 7500 regimented men, of which the Garrison at first consisted, exclusive of a great number of old and young persons unable to carry Arms, they had but 4300 left alive when the City was providentially relieved, and the Siege raised, by the safe arrival of the *Dartmouth* Frigate from *England*, with two store ships full of provisions, to the inexpressible joy of the distressed Garrison. *

And though we, in the present happy Settlement of the Kingdom, are, thanks to the Divine Mercy, in no fear of future Sieges of this kind, or of any Commotions to disturb the present Tranquility of the Realm; yet

* Revd. Mr. *George Walker's* Account of the Siege of *Derry*, London: 1689. — See the State of the Protestants of *Ireland* under the late *K. James's* Government by the most Revd. *William King* Lord Archbishop of *Dublin* — *Dublin* 1730

is it not great prudence, to provide in plentiful Years for *days of Scarcity* ? It is true, we are not in a Condition, without the help of publick Aid, to make Provisions for storing up our Corn in large Granaries, nor, unless our *Tillage* increases, can we expect to fill them ; yet something may be done both in our Cities, and Market Towns, to relieve our trading People, and industrious Poor from the hardships they frequently suffer by the dearth of Bread-Corn.

For had Granaries been erected in this Capital as well as in other Cities and convenient places of the Kingdom, the cries and miseries of the Poor had not been so great. And though large charitable Contributions in almost all parts of the Kingdom, have kept many thousand persons alive, yet notwithstanding all this care to preserve our fellow citizens, Sickness and Death have already swept away vast numbers. To prevent such calamities for the future, we ought by every prudent method to encourage the raising a few Store-houses for Corn, either in a publick or a private manner ; for among many other apparent advantages of such a wise provision, it will not be found the least, that it will in a great measure prevent the infamous practices of greedy and extorting Farmers and Dealers in Meal, who often lay hold of the publick Calamity to sell at what price they please ; it being notorious that they refuse to vend their
Corn.

Corn, even in time of Dearth and Scarcity, unless they receive an excessive price; which the poor not being able to reach to, has reduced them to uncommon necessities.

One of our great Misfortunes is, the uncertainty of the markets for Corn, by the sudden rise and fall of the price of Grain. In *England* the markets are more steady; the rich Farmers, who are a set of people this Country knows little of, supply the Markets themselves with their own Grain, and have substance enough to forbear, if the prices are falling too low, which enables them to bring in the more when they are rising; they keep stocks in their Barns always by them, the Barns and Barn-yards are their Granaries, and where they have not Barn room enough, they make their Stacks or Ricks of Corn so dextrously, that they preserve their Grain for two or three years, not only from the Injuries of the Weather, but commonly from Vermin, and as the Markets rise or fall, they keep up or carry out their Corn for the use of the Kingdom, and to supply foreign Markets.

As we are not in Circumstances to make these necessary provisions, and Farmers are often obliged to sell at any rate to pay their Landlords; it is therefore to be wished that the Cities and Corporate Towns would out of part of their Revenues provide convenient Store-houses for laying up Corn when it bears a low rate, to dispose of the same again to the

the

the industrious poor at a reasonable price, in the dear season of the year, or in any other time of publick distress. This might be followed by the lesser Market-Towns, if gentlemen in the neighbourhood think proper to forward the design by a moderate subscription. We find this method is now carrying on in one of the trading Cities of *North-Britain*, and a good sum of money already subscribed for buying in Corn and Meal to sell again to the poor at little more than the prime Cost. And by the same methods here, gentlemen might at an inconsiderable charge afford most seasonable relief to their Tenants in times of scarcity. The Floors of some of the Market-houses might at a small expence be rendered serviceable to these purposes; in the *Northern* manufacturing Counties especially, where great numbers of hands are constantly employed, the common people generally live upon Oatmeal, a few Tuns of which could easily be stored up in Chests, and lodged in the upper rooms of the Market-houses, if such there are, if not, in any other cheap rented house, and there safely preserved, till it was proper to be sold at a small discount. * Even such small Granaries as these, if once

* For the Usefulness of Granaries, see the second part of an Essay on the Trade and Improvement of *Ireland* by *Arthur Dobbs, Esq;* *Anno Dom. 1731.* Page 66 to page 74.

set on foot, and properly and faithfully managed, could not fail of private, and perhaps in due time might receive some marks of publick Encouragement. Many persons, who perhaps may not be able, or possibly not willing to give money for laying up Corn for the poor, might yet be inclined to advance a moderate sum interest free, for eight, ten, or even twelve Months to relieve their Necessities, to have the same disposed of as the chief Contributors should see proper, and under such regulations as persons of knowledge and probity might judge most convenient. And if notes for Corn delivered, or Money lent to buy Corn, were made transferable, that might further improve and give weight to the Scheme. These, or some such like methods as these, would help to keep down the Markets, and prevent the infamous and pernicious practice of regratting and engrossing Corn by private hands, and selling it out again at an exorbitant price to the people; a practice destructive and injurious to every society, and which becomes more general in proportion to the scarcity of Grain.

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